

Tuesday, November 04, 2008

From the Coeur d'Alene Press

- Cd'A police request rifles in schools

From the Spokesman-Review

- No new education news stories posted online today.

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- UI Ombuds Office changes would benefit students

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- Grant helps southwestern Idaho students plan for careers
- Eagle Lions to present savings bonds to kids

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- Students capture campaign antics in cartoons
- Highland band short of cash goal

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FROM THE COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

Cd'A police request rifles in schools

Posted: Monday, Nov 03, 2008 - 10:59:22 pm PST

By MAUREEN DOLAN

Staff writer

Weapons would be kept in safes inside School Resource Officers' offices

COEUR d'ALENE -- Because many school shootings involve assailants with high-powered rifles, city police officers assigned to Coeur d'Alene schools want to bring more firepower with them when they are on the job inside district school buildings.

Coeur d'Alene Police Department Capt. Ron Clark, supervisor of the School Resource Officers, law enforcement who work jointly for the city and the school district, asked trustees at Monday's board meeting to consider allowing SROs to bring their patrol rifles with them when they report to work inside the school houses each day.

"The rifles, they are more accurate at greater distances and they also will penetrate body armor if the suspect happens to be wearing that," Clark said.

The rifles would be kept locked in gun safes mounted on the walls of the SROs' offices. The officers would be the only ones with access to the weapons.

SROs are stationed within the district's high schools, middle schools and at Project CDA.

Clark said patrol rifles are used commonly by most police agencies and can be found in nearly all patrol vehicles. The SRO's patrol vehicles that remain parked outside the school buildings while the officers are working inside are similarly equipped.

"If it's out in their vehicle in the parking lot, that wouldn't be a situation where they'd be able to get to that rifle," Clark said.

The side arms patrolman and SROs carry have an effective range of 75 feet while a patrol rifle has a 1,200-foot range.

Clark said the length of the hallways in the schools range from 150- to 191-feet.

When dealing with a shooter outside the school, the need for more distance increases.

Clark referred to the incident at Lake City High School in January when Brian Gilmore parked outside the school with high-powered rifles with him inside the vehicle, about 500-feet from the school entrance.

"Luckily, we were able to take him down without any incident, but that just showed the need, that there was a lot of feet in distance that we have to cover," Clark said.

The officers will carry the rifles with them from their patrol cars into the schools inside special duffel bags. They will carry them back to the patrol vehicles in the same manner. The rifles will not be left inside the schools when the SROs are not there.

Officer Mark Todd, one of the district's SROs, said the rifles will be stored inside the safes "patrol ready, loaded and locked."

When they are moved from the vehicles into the schools, Todd said, they will be put into "an unloaded broke-down configuration." Once an officer is inside his office, with the door locked, the rifle will be placed back into patrol-ready status and secured in the safe.

Superintendent Hazel Bauman inquired whether this was being done by SROs in other districts.

Todd said not in this region, but it is done in the Boise School District.

"The topics that Capt. Clark mentioned are daily considerations for SROs within this district," Todd said. "We are well-equipped by today's current standards but in terms of an emergency situation when an assailant comes better equipped than us, we'd like to at least have this availability."

The school board will likely consider whether to approve the SROs request at its December meeting.

In other news, trustees denied the Epic Academy's petition to become a charter school under the district's authority citing the possibility of "significant and unpredictable" financial implications for the district. The Epic Academy plans to ask the state to authorize its petition.

FROM THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE MOSCOW PULLMAN DAILY NEWS (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

UI Ombuds Office changes would benefit students

Faculty will vote whether to extend services to students
By Halley Griffin, Daily News staff writer

Posted on: Monday, November 03, 2008

University of Idaho senior Emmalee Kearney said she could have used some assistance when she was dealing with serious roommate problems last year.

University Housing staff offered to help mediate, but Kearney was worried she'd face retaliation for speaking her mind.

"There needed to be improvements ... because I was scared living with her," Kearney said. She ended up moving out, unable to offer proof of things her roommate had done.

It's too late for Kearney, but students who face similar conflicts in the future may find some relief from the UI Ombuds Office. University faculty will vote Nov. 17 on a proposed expansion of the service to students.

The office currently is available to faculty and staff, though Ombudsman Jim Fazio said he never turns away a student.

The ombuds office operates separately from the structure of the university, answering directly to the provost to eliminate any conflicts of interest in the chain of command. It was known as the Office of Faculty Ombudsman until 1995, when staff were added. The title was changed to the more gender-neutral "ombuds office" in 1997.

Fazio said the office's goal is to resolve conflicts informally at the lowest-possible level.

"The idea is to keep them from becoming grievances or litigation, to make the place a more positive work or learning environment," he said.

Fazio and UI ombudswoman Roxanne Schreiber came up with the idea to expand the service.

"Many other universities have a comprehensive service and we thought it was time to do that," he said.

Kearney said the ombuds could be an invaluable tool for students who don't know how to get the help they need.

"Sometimes it's daunting to take on someone who's an authority figure," she said. "Whether it's an issue you had with a grade you got on a test, or an issue you had with someone else, it could be a great resource for students."

Fazio said the ombuds office handled 148 cases during the 2007-08 academic year. Of those, Fazio cited only one "unsatisfactory" case, in which the situation became worse after meeting with the ombuds.

"Often it's interpersonal conflicts," Fazio said. "People just can't get along for one reason or another, so we try to deal with that."

Fazio said the office occasionally deals with perceived unfairness in evaluations or workload distribution, or more serious issues like discrimination or benefits issues.

Kearney cited another issue she had earlier this year, when she was in danger of failing a yoga class for medical absences.

"I knew enough people within the university that I knew who to contact," she said, adding that many students wouldn't have the same resources available.

Dean of Students Bruce Pitman's office presently is the primary resource for student disciplinary matters on campus, but Pitman said there are some issues that are better resolved through conversation and compromise.

"And those kinds of issues are not well addressed in our campus disciplinary systems," Pitman said.

FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN

Grant helps southwestern Idaho students plan for careers

- STATESMAN STAFF
Edition Date: 11/04/08

Melody Moehlmann of Cole Valley Christian Schools in Meridian was named teacher of the month for small schools on Wednesday by the Capital Educators Federal Credit Union named

She received a \$750 grant to help implement her Idaho Career Information System for high school students, which will provide students with skill assessment tests they need to prepare for their careers.

This is the second month of the teacher of the month program, which will continue through the end of the school year, according to Todd Erickson, CEO of Cap Ed.

Two teachers are selected from grant applications submitted by teachers within CapEd's area of membership, which includes the 15 southwestern Idaho counties.

The next applications are due Nov. 10. For details and application forms, go to www.capedfcu.org or pick up the forms at one of six CapEd locations in Ada and Canyon counties.

Eagle Lions to present savings bonds to kids

- STATESMAN STAFF

Edition Date: 11/04/08

Eagle High School student Kaitlyn Garside will receive a \$75 savings bond from the Eagle Lions on Wednesday for creating the winning poster design for the Eagle Veterans Day Celebration.

Receiving a \$50 savings bond each will be Bekah Huffaker and Nichole Jones, also from Eagle High School, for their winning speeches.

Huffaker and Jones will give their speeches at the Veterans Day Celebration Event at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 11 at the Eagle High School auditorium, 574 Park Lane, Eagle. The event is free and open to the public.

FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

Students capture campaign antics in cartoons

BY CASEY SANTEE

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POCATELLO — John McCain stands in his election headquarters with a dart in his hand and a scowl on his face, taking aim at a photo of Barack Obama pinned to a dart board on a far wall.

The political cartoon was drawn by Pocatello High School sophomore Michael Martin as part of an assignment in Bob Beason's drawing class. Most of the submissions keyed in on a common theme that Martin highlighted — local youths were turned off by the behavior displayed in an often vitriolic presidential election campaign.

Martin, 15, said he isn't politically minded, but he used the assignment as an opportunity to creatively depict what he's observed in the past few months.

“From what I understand, Obama has a lot of cool stuff and McCain is against Obama,” Martin said, “always doggin’ on him: ‘I’m anti-Obama, and that’s why you should vote for me.’”

Junior Alexa Jones, 16, said in her opinion, both candidates have acted immaturely, constantly pointing the finger at one another rather than focusing on the issues. Her cartoon featured a person sitting on a couch, confused about a political commercial on television.

“When I can vote, I’m not gonna unless there are some good candidates,” Jones said. “I think both (McCain and Obama) act like first-graders.”

Senior Brenda Hansen said the candidates have good ideas, but she is tired of all the rhetoric.

She said that while Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin has become iconic, it is for the wrong reasons. Hansen believes Palin has garnered more media attention than her position on the ticket warrants.

Her drawing depicts the Alaska governor with the caption, “I’m a hockey mom.”

In the cartoon, Palin is holding a hockey stick with the inscription Joe Six-pack. A \$10,000 price tag hangs from the sleeve of her collared shirt.

“She does what she wants during debates. If she doesn’t like a question, she talks about what she wants,” Hansen said. “But Joe is getting old. We need change, but saying everything is Joe Six-pack isn’t changing anything.”

Sophomore Ryan Skillings found his inspiration for the assignment jingling in his pocket.

“I had some quarters,” Skillings said. “Whenever you see Obama, he has this poster that says change.”

Skillings drew two coins, one with a likeness of Obama and the other with McCain’s face. The caption coming from both of their mouths is “I want change.”

However, all humor aside, the 15-year-old said the election is important.

“It’s about who’s ruling the country,” he said.

Highland band short of cash goal

BY JIMMY HANCOCK
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POCATELLO — Although still short about one-third of the money needed for the trip to Miami, the airplane tickets for the Highland High School Band have been purchased and Jay Ronk believes the rest of the money will come.

Ronk, director of the Highland High School Band and music coordinator for School District 25, said roughly \$50,000 still needs to be raised if the trip to the BCS Championship Game on Jan. 8 is going to happen.

“We are committed to raising it,” Ronk said. “We are going full steam ahead.”

The Highland band was one of 10 high school bands throughout the nation that were invited to play at the college championship game. Highland is one of only three that have committed to going.

A month ago, the band had only collected about \$50,000 of the \$177,000 needed for the 71 band members and 26 chaperones go to the game in Miami.

“We have continued to hold fundraisers and have gotten some very generous donations from businesses and individuals,” Ronk said. “One private businessman who is a former highland

band member has made it a point to take the lead in that area. He really believes the kids need this opportunity.”

Ronk said the students will continue to hold fundraisers and solicit business, corporate and individual donations until the Dec. 15 deadline. Ronk said failure to raise the money isn’t an option at this point.

“We’ll raise it. We have committed to going,” he said.

FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

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